

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100010136-7

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CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL** *CIA/OCT* */WHIZ 740130*  
 MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

**CIA/WHSS**

ROUTING

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2		5		8		11	
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ITEM NO: 6

DATE: 30 JAN 74

SUBJECT: SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFSHORE OIL CONCESSIONS

SAIGON HAS DECIDED TO HOLD A SECOND ROUND OF BIDDING FOR OFFSHORE OIL CONCESSIONS IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH. THE SECOND ROUND HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR NEXT SPRING, BUT IT HAS BEEN ADVANCED BECAUSE OF AN URGENT NEED FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE FUNDS. FOUR OIL COMPANIES WHICH PAID THE GOVERNMENT \$17 MILLION IN THE FIRST ROUND LAST SEPTEMBER, CURRENTLY ARE CONDUCTING SEISMIC TESTS, AND PROSPECTS FOR EVENTUAL OIL FINDS ARE PROMISING. IN THE COMING ROUND, SAIGON MAY AGAIN REFRAIN FROM GRANTING CONCESSIONS IN AREAS OF THE GULF OF THAILAND WHERE IT HAS OVERLAPPING CLAIMS WITH CAMBODIA, MALAYSIA, AND THAILAND.

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FORM 4-73

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